



Action on Independence!

The Sovereignty Manifesto for the 2024 UK General Election

Introduction

Sovereignty is contesting two seats in the 2024 Westminster elections, and if elected, our candidates will take their seats in Westminster. However, as shall be seen, our candidates are prepared at any moment to join a majority of Scottish elected representatives in declaring independence from the United Kingdom.

Most manifestos are very much of the moment. A wishlist of bills to be repealed, and pet projects to be put forward, or the product of brainstorming session by a kitchen cabinet or some policy wonks.

This manifesto is different, and indeed it must be different, for Sovereignty has as its central aim the restoration of fully sovereign self-government for Scotland, not salvaging a flailing United Kingdom or rejoining a failing European Union.

It includes principles that may apply currently to the UK or a devolved Scotland, but whose ultimate focus is the newly-independent Scottish state. More than this, may this statement of principles serve as a signpost, looking ahead, through the transition to independence, to the land that Scotland might be.

David McHutchon, Party Leader

Foundations, not Fictions

1. We believe in a Scotland **sovereign, just and free**.
2. Scotland should be **independent** of the United Kingdom, the European Union, and any other body that might seek jurisdiction over it.
3. Scotland is a **homeland** for the Scottish people. Given that no other state can be expected to defend our people's prerogatives, it is only right that they be protected here.
4. Central to our vision of an independent Scotland is the concept of **national resilience**, to be a people who remain strong in the face of external shocks.
5. The use of **Gaelic and Scots**, as languages central to our identity, should be promoted.
6. An independent Scotland should be subject to no external human authority, nor recognise any **superior jurisdiction**.
7. **Global government** centralises too much power in too few hands. It is antithetical to all that for which we stand.
8. **Democracy** is better practised, than promoted.
9. **National unity** should ever be sought, save at the expense of liberty, truth and justice.
10. **Human life** should be treated as sacred, and efforts made to improve protection for the elderly, mothers and unborn children.
11. The rights and prerogatives of **families** must be respected.
12. A future Scottish state must pursue **pronatalist public policy** in the face of calamitous demographic decline. Scottish families should act for their survival in the meantime.
13. The fundamental building block of cohesive societies has been since antiquity the **nuclear family** held in union by the marriage of one man and one woman.
14. The law should only recognise the category of **sex, not gender**.
15. To enjoy legitimacy, religion, media and culture should uphold **public morality** and the common decency of the Scottish people.
16. The **Scottish diaspora** has for too long lacked leadership and cohesion. It's time for this to be proactively addressed.
17. Independence is the proper inheritance of a righteous people. **May we be counted worthy of it!**

Sovereignty, not Subjugation

1. That we Scots constitute a **nation** is an incontrovertible social reality, our nationhood having even been acknowledged repeatedly by the British Government.
2. **No foreign prince, state or potentate**, has or ought to have any jurisdiction within this realm. (*Hope's Major Practicks*, 1608)
3. The Scottish sovereign **claim of right** has never been extinguished.
4. Furthermore, but separately, as a nation, Scots possess **the right to self-determination**, in both natural and international law.
5. As there exists no political or judicial **route to independence** from the UK, Scotland must exercise this right unilaterally.
6. In arguing for recognition of Kosovo's **Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)** before the International Court of Justice, the UK Government acknowledged such declarations' legality.
7. Any declaration made should be given **immediate effect**.
8. The Declaration may include a one-time, time-limited offer to enter **negotiations on a post-disunion settlement**, and a fair division of the UK's assets and liabilities.
9. Should this offer not be accepted, Scotland will repudiate any and all obligations with respect to **the liabilities of the rest of the United Kingdom**.
10. All institutions of the Scottish state will be instructed **to act in accordance with the Declaration**, and subsequently, the Constitution.
11. All legal residents on **Independence Day** should be granted residency in an independent Scotland, and citizenship granted to Scots on the basis of *jus sanguinis*.
12. Those responsible for securing independence shall enjoy **lasting honour** in an independent Scotland, and may be compensated for losses occurred in achieving it.
13. We will resist all efforts to have Scotland relinquish self-government by joining the **European Union**, or any other international organisation that places limitations on the sovereignty of nation-states.
14. **Scots law shall enjoy primacy** over any other man-made body of law.
15. We will resist claims of **extraterritorial jurisdiction**, and shall disavow making them ourselves.
16. We shall not be a party to the **European Convention on Human Rights**, or be subject to the European Court of Human Rights.

Constitutionalism, not Caprice

1. The question of the **form of government** of an independent Scotland - be it a republic, parliamentary democracy, elected monarchy or constitutional monarchy - should be left until after independence.
2. However, as fundamental to the very concept of independence, we do not support any claim of the **House of Windsor** with respect to Scotland. One monarch may not rule two independent kingdoms.
3. An **interim Constitution** should identify the form of government and institutions of an independent Scotland, their functions, and the limits of their power.
4. The **Scottish Constitution** should be focused on the nature and structure of the Scottish state, rather than a 'bucket list' of policy prescriptions.
5. The Scottish Constitution, written or unwritten, should enjoy strong **democratic support**.
6. We affirm the separation of powers, the rule of law, the principle of legal certainty, and checks on selective or political prosecutions as central to the **Scottish legal system**.
7. There must be **separation of powers** between government, the judiciary and the police.
8. It is proper that citizenship and migration law provide for the reunification of nuclear families, and provide a **right of return** to the Scottish diaspora.
9. It is time for **Scottish society** and the Scottish family to step up, and stop outsourcing all its agency to the state, to individuals, the media-cultural complex, and Big Tech.
10. **Truth and justice** are the two pillars of the state, whereby sovereignty and public order are established and maintained.
11. We recognise the historic centrality of **Christianity** to the formation of Scottish statehood.
12. The **church** should continue to play its historic role in the provision of education, healthcare and care for the poor and needy.
13. We acknowledge the 'auld laws', Christian law and morality, the Roman law tradition, canon law, and Reformation and Enlightenment-era legal scholarship as legitimate **sources for contemporary jurisprudence**.
14. An independent Scotland should act to preserve the country's **religious and civic heritage** where other bodies are unable to do so.

Liberty, not Lawlessness

1. We hold that **the defence of life, liberty and property** are central to the function of the law.
2. **Trial by jury** must be the norm in criminal proceedings.
3. As a benefit of **Brexit**, removal of EU legislation should continue, and the reduction of compliance costs and administrative burdens be aimed for.
4. Likewise, Scottish independence cannot help but clarify **jurisdictional boundaries**, particularly if Scotland ends up being constituted as a unitary state.
5. Both now and for a future independent Scotland, we will speak in defence of **civil liberties**.
6. Scots ought to possess **the right to freedom of movement and assembly**, free from surveillance by the state.
7. It is inappropriate for the state to use pervasive public **surveillance technologies**. Public CCTV should be discontinued.
8. Reliance on **biometric data and facial recognition** in public places must be reduced.
9. Law should admit the most limited of speech crimes, and all **hate crime legislation** should be repealed.
10. Illegal entry or criminality by non-citizens should be grounds for **deportation**.
11. **Freedom of conscience and religious freedom** are central to a just state.
12. **Drug crime** should be prosecuted far more aggressively, and criminal gangs broken up.
13. **Rape and sexual assault** are not minor crimes. It is time for the courts to start protecting women and girls, handing out appropriate sentences, respecting victims' dignity.
14. **Legal aid funding** should be improved to ensure our defence bar are appropriately compensated, and to ensure that justice is available to all on an equal basis.
15. **Divorce law** should do more to encourage couples to stay together, for the sake of both children and the wider society.
16. Police Scotland should be disbanded, and **local police constabularies** restored, albeit with certain police functions maintaining a national character.

Prosperity, not Profligacy

1. Economic activity not essential to national or cultural security should be governed by **market forces**.
2. An independent Scotland shall have its own currency, with **sound money** being preferable to fiat currency.
3. A **sovereign wealth fund** should be established, and funded with energy royalties.
4. The likes of **Central Bank Digital Currencies** (CBDCs) are inimical to monetary privacy, easily debased, and should be shelved. Cash should be everywhere accepted.
5. The complete tax code of an independent Scotland should be able to be contained in three W. Green volumes. **Simplification** has much merit!
6. Scottish corporate and personal **taxation rates** should be more, not less competitive than those of our neighbours.
7. Income, benefits and taxation should be treated holistically, with **benefit cliffs** being eliminated to make increased earnings more attractive.
8. **Benefit claims** should be processed in a timely fashion.
9. The **costs of labour** and hiring should be reduced for employers, and capital investment should be encouraged.
10. Households, not corporations, should **own homes** in Scotland.
11. Government should live within its means, **spending** only from present and not future revenues, and should neither a lender nor a debtor be.
12. Following the traditional principles of Christian finance, **usurious lending** should be outlawed.
13. **Economic migration** places increased strain on limited resources, and should be stopped.
14. **Public building works** should seek to preserve and continue vernacular, stone-built architectural styles at the expense of the planned obsolescence, waste and poor design of modernism.
15. Investment in **public infrastructure** should be increased, and gaps in the rail network plugged.
16. **The anti-car agenda** must cease. LEZs, aggressive pedestrianisation, the internal combustion engine phaseout, vehicle surveillance, bus gates, and scrappage schemes must stop.

Enterprise, not Stasis

1. To improve its resilience, an independent Scotland should derive its **energy from a wide range of sources**, including oil and gas.
2. Scotland should do everything in its power to maintain the capacity **to refine the fossil fuels** it extracts.
3. **Economic policy** should favour small over large enterprises, direct ownership over corporations, and the national over the foreign.
4. The state has a role to play in preventing **monopolisation**.
5. Government should give proper regard to how business and tax law have discouraged **capital investment** in Scottish manufacturing.
6. A steel industry being intrinsic to any serious world economy, we support efforts to reestablish large-scale **steel production** in Scotland.
7. The restoration of **manufacturing** to the Central Belt of Scotland should be a national priority.
8. We recognise the need for a world-class **container port** in Scotland, but categorically do not support freeports.
9. Scotland has been a leading **maritime nation**, and we should seek to become so again.
10. **Scottish waters should be for Scottish boats**, permitting only genuinely reciprocal agreements.
11. **Fisheries protection** must stop giving foreign boats a free pass, while the labour laws should protect local employment, and ensure Scottish youths can fish with their parents.
12. Scotland should seek to position itself as a natural terminus in the emerging East-West **trade routes**.
13. **Patent law** should be liberalised to prevent monopolisation, over-consolidation, patent trolling, low levels of investment in research and development, and innovation hoarding.
14. We will **resettle the Scottish Highlands** and permit the building of higher-altitude settlements employing vernacular architectural styles.
15. Corporations and non-citizens will no longer be allowed to own estates. A £1/acre/year **land tax** for all land holdings will ensure that passive ownership is discouraged, and bring more land to market.
16. We will challenge all commitments to obtain **net zero**, and the obsessive focus on forestry at the expense of other land uses.

Education, not Indoctrination

1. We will always support **a separate system of education** in Scotland.
2. A priority for an independent Scotland should be ensuring that our education system is internationally competitive, and provides **academically rigorous instruction**.
3. Education, not **indoctrination**, should be provided in our schools and universities.
4. The pursuit of truth, the attainment of excellence, the formation of character, and the appreciation of beauty should lie at **the heart of all education**.
5. An independent Scotland would have a national secondary curriculum that places **core knowledge and skills** at its heart.
6. **Standardised testing** provides an objective measure of student attainment and educational effectiveness, improved student outcomes, greater equity, and improved system-wide performance.
7. The Curriculum for Excellence would be replaced with a **national curriculum** that would provide elective model lesson plans, textbooks and resources.
8. Educational development should be **research-based**, and practice 'what works' approaches to improvement.
9. Homes, not schools are the place to discuss **marriage, sex and reproduction**.
10. There must be no **promotion of homosexuality, transgenderism or gender ideology** in schools.
11. The law should protect children freedom from predation with the utmost vigour, and there should be no liberalisation of **age of consent** protections.
12. The legal position of Christian, denominational or **faith-based schools** should be protected.
13. The right to **homeschool** your own children should continue to be recognised in law.
14. The state is not a parent. **Named Person** and GIRFEC-type initiatives should be scrapped.
15. **Vocational education** should be elevated to the status of university education, with places at college providing a clear pathway to apprenticeships and skilled employment in industry.
16. **Universities** should be funded by civil society, the state, and from the proceeds of their research, not in large measure from fees from foreign students.

Health, not Harm

1. Numerous international organisations advocate for **population reduction**, including the UNFPA, WHO, World Bank, IPPF and Gates Foundation. They must be resisted.
2. The rights of the **unborn child** should be respected, and the law should reflect the preciousness of these lives, while seeking to protect mothers.
3. The law should prohibit **euthanasia and assisted suicide**, and we should continue to invest in palliative care.
4. Places on **university-level medicine courses** should be increased to address staffing shortages.
5. In the event of a **medical emergency**, fast, competent and free emergency medical care should be available to all.
6. The **doctor-patient relationship** should be respected, and patient choices better respected.
7. There ought to be proactive investigation of globalist organisations' roles in the spread of pandemics, and generalised presumption against **mass vaccination** and mass mandates.
8. The continuing need for **public health agencies** should subject to review.
9. **Private midwifery** should once again be able to be practised in Scotland.
10. The number of **drug rehabilitation spaces** should be significantly increased.
11. The **public water supply** should not be largely untreated, and we should consider scrapping protocols adopted within the past twenty-five years.
12. **Food** should be GM-free, and natural foodstuffs such as meat, fish and raw milk should be promoted, while toxic ingredients and unhealthy production processes should be outlawed.
13. There should be a national commission on the spike in cases of **infertility**, and action on its recommendations, and a review of the health impact of electromagnetic radiation.
14. **Patents on organic products**, including food and seeds, ought to be nullified and prohibited in law.
15. **Science** must not play God. We oppose cloning, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, embryonic stem cell research, xenotransplantation, human-animal hybrids, geoengineering and transhumanism.
16. **Smart cities** are inhumane.

Peace, not War

1. An independent Scotland should pursue a policy of **armed neutrality**, non-aggression, and peaceful relations with other states to guarantee its security and the endurance of the Scottish state.
2. The **armed forces of an independent Scotland** should be fully orientated towards defence, not foreign intervention.
3. The **strategic defence concept** for an independent Scotland should include the total defence concept, defence in depth, asymmetric warfare, and the creation of a national redoubt.
4. Core strategic approaches may include **multi-layered defence**, decentralised command and control, national resilience, extensive use of elite units, and fortification with mobility.
5. We would support a Swiss-style citizen army and **military service**, but only in the context of an independent Scotland, and allowing for conscientious objection.
6. Given their significance for local and national identity, their distinctive cultures and illustrious histories, we will seek the restoration of the **Scottish regiments**.
7. **Veterans** deserve better protection, including against the scourge of homelessness.
8. We shall protect our **land and maritime borders** against invaders armed and unarmed.
9. **Scotland's foreign policy** should focus on its national sovereignty, security and interests, and on facilitating trade, not on 'the promotion of our values'.
10. As antithetical to national sovereignty, pernicious in concentrating power, and imprudent in prioritising efficiency over resilience, we repudiate **globalism** in all its forms.
11. We will respect the **sovereignty of other states**, and expect their respect for Scotland's sovereignty, territorial integrity and settled borders.
12. We will honour the **principle of non-interference** in the domestic affairs of other states, and resist any attempt to interfere in our own.
13. An independent Scotland's most significant bilateral relations will likely be with the other countries of the **British Isles**, and we seek to ensure these are positive.
14. Scotland should support global efforts towards **nuclear non-proliferation** and non-aggression, although not necessarily by unilateral disarmament.
15. We condemn **regime-change operations**, colour revolutions and attempts by any one state to impose a government on another.
16. Unlike the UK, Scotland shall seek "peace, prosperity and friendship" with all nations, shall eschew economic sanctions, and shall seek to be a **bridge between Eurasia and the West**.

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